

# Five Questions that Must be Answered

## Lesson 2—What is Your Vision and How Do You Get One?

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passage: Numbers 13:25-33

Key Verse: Jeremiah 33:3; Ephesians 3:20

### BEFORE CLASS

**Preparation:** *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- What is your vision for God to move in your life? In your family? In your class?
- What has inspired this vision?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.

#### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

*CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.*

*CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.*

*CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.*

*THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, "It really doesn't matter if you're here or not." Small things communicate great messages. Let the three "small" things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

### OPENING ACTIVITY

#### Opening Questions

- *Who remembers who Helen Keller was?* (Helen Keller was blind and deaf but through an incredible relationship, she learned to read and communicate. She was also a wonderful Christian who said that the first sight she desired to see was her Savior.)

Listen to another statement of hers: *"The greatest tragedy to befall a person is to have sight, but to lack vision."*

- *What do you think she meant? What does it mean for a person to have a vision?* (A person's vision is not about how well they see, but on what their heart is focused.)

It could be compared to a strong desire and a longing for God to do something. It's the focus of a person's purpose.)

- *What is your vision? What are you looking for God to do in your life? In your family? In your school?*

Consider the following questions:

- *If God were to have His total way in your life, what would it look like?*
- *If God were to have His total way in your school, what would it look like?*

SAY: Today we're going to take a look at a story of a couple of people who had a vision for what God could do and others who didn't.

## **BIBLE LESSON**

SAY: Before we read the story, let me give you some background: God had brought the people out of the land of Egypt. Now the time had come for them to enter the Promised Land and God told Moses to send out men so that they could spy out the land. Moses appointed a leader from each of the tribes of Israel to go. Listen to the report after they returned...

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Numbers 13:25-33

SAY: In this story, we see two kinds of people: Those who have a vision for what God can do (i.e., Joshua and Caleb) and those who don't (the rest of the spies).

- *How do you think the spies were affected when they saw giants living in the land and great fortified cities? How would you have been affected?*
- *Why don't you think Joshua and Caleb were affected like the others?*
- *Why do you think Joshua and Caleb were so confident in saying, "...for we shall surely overcome it" (verse 30)? (Obviously they were willing to trust God.)*
- *How did the other spies describe their feelings about themselves in verse 33? (...and we became like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in theirs.)*

SAY: The spies saw two different "big pictures":

- Joshua and Caleb saw the big picture of what God could and would do.
- The others were focused on a picture of life that didn't involve God.

Here are their responses:

- Joshua and Caleb said, in essence, "We can take the land because God is with us."

- The others, in essence, said, “We can’t take it because the people are too strong and we are like grasshoppers (i.e., weak and insignificant).”

Here is the difference:

- Joshua and Caleb focused on God, so their vision saw through what God could do.
- The other spies focused on physical things—on others and on themselves, so their vision couldn’t reach beyond only what they could do.
- *When you look at the “big picture” of your life, which of the two “visions” above is most like yours? Why? How do you think this affects how you interpret life around you?*

*ILLUSTRATION:* Let’s say you buy a pair of yellow-tinted sunglasses. When you put them on, everything takes on a yellow tint. But let’s say you also buy a pair of blue-tinted sunglasses. When you put these on, everything takes on a bluish tint. What you see depends on what you are looking through. The same is true with faith. When you perceive the world around you through spiritual eyes, you will see your life and the things that enter it in a spiritual way. But when you look only through the eyes of this world, you will only see the things of this world.

- *Do you feel like you see the world around in through spiritual eyes (i.e., eyes where you perceive the plan and movement of God) or through worldly eyes (i.e., eyes where God is not involved and His movement is not seen)?*
- *How do you think the way you look at situations and events in your life would be affected if you saw them through God’s eyes? Is there anything you’re facing right now that you wish you could see through God’s eyes?*

*SAY:* Overall, two things affected the Israelites lack of vision for what God could do:  
 (1) Their view of themselves (We are like grasshoppers.)  
 (2) Their view of God (They looked at the situation, not at God’s plan and ability).

- *What do you think you would look like if you saw yourself through God’s eyes? Do you think it would change what you feel God can do in your life? What do you think you would learn? Do you think you would be more ready to let God use you?*
- *What do you think a person could do to help them see more clearly what God is doing and desires to do in his or her life?*

*SAY:* The people sided against Joshua and Caleb and because of their unbelief God announced that they would wander in the wilderness for forty years until all of them had died except for Joshua and Caleb, since the people had been unwilling to believe and trust in the Lord. Over forty years later Joshua led the people into the Promised Land. The first city to fall was Jericho and beforehand, Joshua sent spies into the city. Listen to how Rahab, whom they met, described how the people in the land felt about the Israelites

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Joshua 2:9-11*

- *Did they view them as grasshoppers?* (No. They feared them and one reason is that they remembered how God had brought them out of Egypt over forty years earlier.)

## **KEY VERSE**

*SAY:* Sometimes people don't have a vision. There could be several reasons for this. Consider the following:

- Some people don't have a spiritual vision because they are not focused on spiritual things.
- Some people don't have a spiritual vision because they don't think God can use them.
- Some people don't have a spiritual vision because they want to leave God's work up to other people.
- Some people don't have a spiritual vision because they haven't "dreamed" with God about what He can do.

Listen to what the Bible says:

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Jeremiah 33:3*

*SAY:* Don't be afraid to call to God, to lay your dreams for what the Lord can do in your life, family, and school at His feet.

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read Ephesians 3:20*

*SAY:* Don't be afraid to ask God to use you. What God can accomplish doesn't depend on your abilities or strength. It is His power that is at work within you and He is able to do much more than you could ever ask or imagine.

- *On a scale of 1 to 10, how well developed do you think your vision is for what God can do in your life, family, and school?*
- *What would you desire to see God do in these areas?*

## **WRAP IT UP**

*KEY:* Let God stir in your heart a vision of what He can do in your life, your family, and your school. Then make yourself available to be used by Him and let Him amaze you with the great things that only God can do.

## **Prayer Time**

*Pray specifically today that God will give your students a vision for what He can do and that they will be willing to trust Him and be used by Him in the fulfillment of that vision.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

## **Prayer Requests**